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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

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MARCH 2, 1893.—Ordered to be printed.

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Mr. SAWYER, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany S. 3882.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 3882) granting a pension to Honora Shea, have examined the same, and report:

The claimant is the mother of Martin J. Shea, who was a member of Battery H, Fifth Regiment United States Artillery, having enlisted December 6, 1864, and served until he was accidentally drowned, March 21, 1867, at Fort Monroe, Va., while off duty.

The claim was rejected May 12, 1891, on the ground that the death of the soldier by drowning while off duty was not accepted as due to the service and line of duty.

The account of the accident as furnished by the captain of his company states that Private Shea, with a number of enlisted men, went without leave to Hampton, Va., a short distance from where he was stationed. In returning at night he fell into the moat and was drowned, the night being particularly dark and stormy. It was supposed he was intoxicated at the time.

This soldier served through the war, and his death, while technically not in the line of duty, still should not debar his poor mother, now over 70 years, from a pension. She is dependent and helpless. The soldier during his life contributed to her support. The committee recommend the passage of the bill.